**Setting up of solar terminal plant at TUTICORIN**

391. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a 100 megawatt solar thermal plant at Udangudi, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Tamil Nadu Government is seeking Central assistance for this project as the capital cost is high; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response from Government?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry so far.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Formulation of Solar Energy Policy**

392. SHRI T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate solar energy policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Government has approved Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission to develop solar energy technologies to make solar power competitive to conventional grid power. The Mission aims at setting up of 20,000 MW grid solar power and 2,000 MW of off-grid solar power including 20 million solar lights. In addition, it aims at installation of 20 million square metre solar thermal collector area by 2022. The mission will be implemented in three phases. Government has approved the target to set up 1,100 MW grid connected solar plants and 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications in the first phase of the Mission, till 2012-13.

In addition, the Mission will also support research and development to reduce cost, improve efficiency and overall performance of solar energy systems and also for development of new materials and devices.

**Power Generation renewable sources**

393. SHRI S. S. AHLUWAL1A: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pieased to state: